

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

May 13, 1999

Re: Docket #98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production,
Processing, and Handling of Food"

Dear FDA people, 0834 '99 MAY 18 A9:45

As a taxpaying citizen of the United States, I demand to have irradiation information on all food, whether processed, packaged, or grown and harvested for sale, and in all food-serving establishments, if that food has been subjected to nuclear radiation. And that the labeling disclosure should be permanently exempt from withdrawal and/or expiration.

All people of the United States should know what their food consists of and how it was processed so that they can make intelligent decisions on what food to purchase.

When I shop for groceries I always read ingredient labeling to make sure I get what I pay for and nothing else.

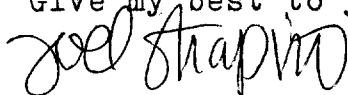
When people buy prescription drugs, they are informed on the side-effects, on whether drugs can be taken together or separately, as well as the benefits of those drugs.

Toothpaste that contains fluoride has a warning on the back of each tube that states, "...call the poison control center immediately if you swallow toothpaste". Over 50 years have gone by without that disclaimer on fluoridated toothpaste tubes, and just recently, manufacturers have diligently made sure that that warning is on each and every tube to escape law suits of unimaginable sizes.

My mom said to me when I was a little kid, "Don't play with your food, Joel". And I want to tell the intelligent people at the FDA, "Don't play with our food labeling", keep us well informed with accurate description of how each component of the ingredients has been irradiated. The label must display the RADURA symbol with the statement—"This food product was processed with irradiation from nuclear by-products", and NOT an ambiguous one like, "Electronic Pasteurization" or "Cold Pasteurization" or "Ion particle whatever pasteurization". Because any statement other than an exact one of truth is misleading.

And finally, ask your kids if they would want the truth or just be happy being misled for 50 years, finding out later that their parents were not reputable people.

Give my best to your families,



Joel Shapiro
819 N. Orange Grove Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90046

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May 13, '99

please note —

I forgot to date
the first letter I sent —

so here's a copy
that I've dated

knowing it has to be
at your office by '99.

the 18th of May

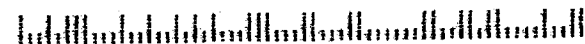
Thank you,
Juel Shapiro

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Shapiro*



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